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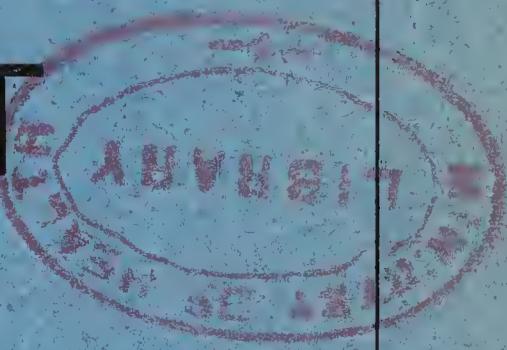
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Lancaster Rural District Council

REPORT OF THE Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1942.



Printed by Frank N. Shires, Ltd., Mary Street, Lancaster.

Lancaster Rural District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health For the Year 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the
LANCASTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1942 on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of your District.

This is an ordinary Report and is not intended to include any information regarding A.R.P. Services.

The Report includes that of your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector so far as his activities relate to Health and Sanitary matters.

I am,
Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
J. A. TOMB,
Medical Officer of Health.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. A. TOMB, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

KENNETH H. DOCTON * †

First Assistant Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

CLIFFORD HYDE * °

Second Assistant Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

ERIC WINDER °

Clerical Assistant :.....THOMAS PROCTOR

Temporary Staff : JOHN BAGOT, DOUGLAS ATHERTON

° On Active Service.

* Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.

† Member Instn. Municipal and County Engineers.

1. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area :

AREA of the District (Acres)	53,317
POPULATION (Census 1931)	9,697
POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate 1942)	10,740
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	
(Census 1931)	2,396
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	
(March, 1942, according to Rate Books)	3,175
Number of Families or separate occupiers	
(Census 1931)	2,454
RATEABLE VALUE	£68,346
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£284

(1st April, 1943)

The chief occupations of the inhabitants of the District are :

Agricultural Work.

Textile Work.

Quarrying.

In addition to these usual occupations a considerable amount of labour is absorbed in factories for war purposes.

There is a very definite shortage of labour in the district.

There is no particular occupation having an influence on the health of the inhabitants.

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births (Legitimate)	119	66	53
(Illegitimate)	8	3	5
Total	127	69	58
Birth-Rate per 1,000 population	11.8		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	45		
Death	153	74	79
Stillbirths	6	4	2
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.2 = 153 persons.		

Deaths from puerperal Causes :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1000 (live and still) Births
Puerperal sepsis	—	Nil
Other puerperal causes	1	7.51
Total	1	7.51

Death-rate of Infants under one year, per 1,000 live births :—

	1941
All	55
Legitimate	58
Illegitimate	Nil
	166

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	27
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2

	Per 1000 of Estimated Population						Maternal- mortality rate
	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death-rate from Cancer	Per 1000 live births	Per 1000 total (live and still) births	Rate of deaths under one year per 1000 live births
Mean of 5 yrs.							
1937-1941	13.5	13.3	.38	1.17	7.42	7.09	34
Year—1941	13.6	12.9	.17	2.19	Nil	Nil	18
Year—1942	11.8	14.2	.18	2.51	7.87	7.51	55
Increase or decrease in 1942 on—5 yrs.							
average, 1937-1941	—1.7	+0.9	—0.20	+1.04	+0.45	+0.42	+21
Previous year	—1.8	+1.3	+0.01	+0.32	+7.87	+7.51	+37

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES IN THE YEAR 1942

	Males	Females	Total
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	1
Diarrhoea	—	—	2
Diphtheria	—	—	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	—	—	2
Influenza	—	—	1
Measles	—	—	1
Cancer	14	13	27
Intra Cranial Vascular	4	10	14
Heart Disease	20	19	39
Disease of Circ. System	1	1	2
Bronchitis	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	2	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1	3
Digestive Diseases.....	4	4	8
Nephritis	7	6	13
Congenital Debility and Premature Births	—	2	2
Other Maternal Causes	—	1	1
Suicide	—	—	—
Road Accidents	4	2	6
Other Violent Causes.....	1	—	1
All other causes	11	13	24
	74	79	153

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Total	4	3	7
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

- (a) **Laboratory Facilities.** Swabs for Diphtheria are examined at the Isolation Hospital of the Lancaster and District Joint Hospital Board, and other Bacteriological specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory of the Manchester University at Manchester. Analysis of Foodstuffs is carried out under the direction of the Lancashire County Council.
- (b) **Ambulance Facilities.**
For Infectious Diseases :— The Lancaster and District Joint Hospital Board's Ambulance is available.
Other Cases :— Lancaster Corporation (Watch Committee) Ambulance is available on payment of 1/- per mile for cases outside the City Boundary.
- (c) **Professional Nursing in the Home.** The District is provided for by the respective Nursing Associations. The Council assists them financially.
- (d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.** None in the Area.
Tuberculosis patients are dealt with at the Lancashire County Council Dispensary, 8 Middle Street, Lancaster. The nearest Clinic for the treatment of Venereal Diseases is at Preston Royal Infirmary.
- (e) **Hospitals : Public and Voluntary.**
Infectious Diseases :— The Isolation Hospital of the Lancaster and District Joint Hospital Board, and Smallpox Hospital are available by arrangement.
Other Cases : The Royal Lancaster Infirmary (Voluntary Hospital) situated in Lancaster City.

4. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply :—

Authority from which supply obtained.
Source of supply.

Nature of supply (i.g., moorland, deep wells, etc.)

Particulars of any new sources of public supply.

Is the supply satisfactory ?

Constant or intermittent.

Approx. No. of dwelling-houses with piped supplies (public or private).

Possibilities of contamination.

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination.

Any liability to plumbosolvent action ?

If piped supply, has the water been examined during the year ?

Approx. number of dwelling-houses supplied from wells, springs, streams, etc.

Have these waters been examined during the year ?

Any insufficiency, and where.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year.

Lancaster Corporation, Manchester Corporation, Fylde Water Board, Carnforth Waterworks Co. Also wells, roof water, etc.

In bulk from above. Moorland water.

None.

(a) In quality—Yes, as regards water mains
(b) In quantity—Yes, as regards water mains.

Water mains supplies constant.

2650 (31 January, 1944).

Nil.

Nil.

Yes, from Thirlmere water which has 2° of hardness.

Bacteriological examinations : Nil.

Chemical analysis : 3.

450 (30th June, 1942).

One source.

None.

Drainage and Sewerage :—

Sewage and disposal works, method of treatment.

Parish of Slyne-with-Hest : Percolating filter. Effluent into Hatlex Beck.

Parish of Cockerham : Percolating filter, Effluent into dyke.

Parish of Middleton. Contact filters. Effluent into dyke.

Parish of Warton (north section): Outfall into tidal portion of river Kent.

Parish of Warton (Millhead section): Into Carnforth sewers.

Parish of Ellel (Dolphinholme section): Septic tank and Percolating filter. Effluent into river Wyre.

Parish of Overton: Discharged crude into drainage ditch.

Parishes of Thurnham, Glasson Dock: Into tidal portion of river Lune. Lower Thurnham discharged crude into drainage ditch.

Parish of Bolton-le-Sands: Crude into Tidal dyke on foreshore.

Priest Hutton (village). Septic Effluents from various tanks discharged into water course.

It is not considered necessary to establish any system of pipe draining in the remaining parishes, but it is recommended that consideration should be given to some form of treatment to the following outfalls:— Overton, Bolton-le-Sands and Warton, and when time and material permit at places referred to below. The method of removing sewage from cess-pools at Silverdale is found to be quite satisfactory.

The Effluent from the Middleton works is not satisfactory and it is hoped that steps will be taken to correct this as soon as circumstances permit.

Rivers and Streams:—

Action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams.

Sources and nature of pollution, and new works established, and is there any resultant river pollution?

The Officials of the Council are aware of any important pollution and these together with small pollutions are the subject of Inspections carried out by Inspectors of Lancashire Rivers Board, who provide particulars of observations made.

Pollution of dykes at Priest Hutton, Lower Thurnham, Overton and Bailrigg exist. All cases due to the discharge of crude or Septic Sewage. (Schemes are being prepared to deal with Priest Hutton and Lower Thurnham).

Closet Accommodation at end of 1942.

Closets other than water closets: 993.

	All houses are now provided with movable ashbins.
	No. of houses on water carriage system : 2258 (1398 to sewers, 860 to cesspools, etc.).
	No. of fresh water closets : 2258.
	Conversions during the year 1941 :—
	No. of Privy Closets: To Fresh W.C's. 6
Is there any definite scheme at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets ?	Yes. In parishes where sufficient water supply and sewers are available.
Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion ?.	Yes.
If so, how much ?	Half Cost (Sec. 47 P.H.A. 1936).
Public Cleaning :—	
(a) The method of collecting dry house refuse.	The whole of the district is Scavenged once every two weeks by the District Council with covered motor lorries.
(b) The method of collecting refuse from earth closets and privies.	As above.
(c) The method of disposing of dry house refuse.	Controlled Tipping.
(d) The method of disposing of refuse from earth closets and privies.	Controlled Tipping. (Material from excavations in neighbourhood of tips used to cover refuse periodically).
(e) The method of cleansing cesspools.	Contractor in Parish of Silverdale. Other parishes by local farmers. Pumped into tank cart.
(f) Arrangements for the disposal of cesspool contents.	On the land.
If a destructor is provided, state situation.	No.
State whether public cleaning is carried out by sanitary authority, contract, or occupiers of houses.	House refuse and emptying of all dry closets carried out by sanitary authority.

	During the year the collection of refuse has at times been delayed owing to the collection of salvage but not to such an extent as to render the service unsatisfactory.
Sanitary Inspections (including Housing):	
No. of premises visited.	103.
Defects or unisances.	No. discovered 50. No. abated 30.
No. of notices served.	Informal 21. Statutory 6.
Legal proceedings.	One. Result: Conviction.
Shops and Offices :—	
Particulars of any action taken under provisions of :	
(a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences.	Nil.
(b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc. (See pages 3 and 4 of M. & H. Circular, 1600, dated 1st May, 1937).	Nil.
Camping Sites :—	
(a) No. of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1942.	3 known to exist. All known sites are licensed.
(b) No. of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by local authority under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.	Three.
Smoke Abatement :—	
Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement.	Nil.
No. of factory and works chimneys in the district.	Seven (not including I.C.I. Factory).

No. of observations.	Nil.
No. of legal proceedings taken, and result.	Nil.
Particulars of any co-operative action with industry.	Nil.
What is the time limit allowed per hour for the emission of black smoke ?	No Bye-law.
Swimming Baths and Pools :—	
Brief particulars of any :	
(a) Public swimming baths or pools.	No public baths or pools in district.
(b) Privately owned swimming baths or pools open to public.	One Parish of Silverdale.
(c) Action taken to secure the satisfactory condition of the water.	Nil.
Eradication of bed bugs :—	
Particulars of action taken during 1942.	
No. of houses found to be infested.	Nil.
No. of houses disinfested.	Nil.
Schools :—	
(a) Sanitary condition.	Satisfactory as far as system permits.
(b) Water supply.	All except two supplied Council's mains. Satisfactory: One to be provided, other has private piped spring supply.
Offensive Trades :—	Nil.
Common Lodging Houses :—	No. on register: 1. Condition fair. Date of bye-laws: December, 1904. Are they adequate? Yes.
Houses let in lodgings :—	Nil.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. :—	Sites inspected and licensed. Action taken to prevent the occupation of 2 unsuitable structures. 2 unlicensed dwellings removed after service of notice.
Underground Sleeping Rooms :—	None.
Canal Boats :—	No inspections are made in this district as the Lancaster Corporation Official carries out this work as the boats pass through Lancaster.
Rag Flock Act, 1911 and 1928 :—	None.

5. HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	Nil
(i) By the local authority	Nil
(ii) By other local authorities	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	Nil
(b) With State assistance under Housing Acts :	
(i) By the local authority (included under (a) (i) above	Nil
(ii) By other Bodies (included under (a) (iii) above	Nil

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	18
Number of inspections made for the purpose	26
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	Nil
Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	Nil

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	8
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3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3

(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	3
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	Nil
(b)	*Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	8
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	8
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	Nil
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses cleared as such	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings have been given under sec. II	Nil
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year

Not known and
no inspections

* Refers only to action taken with regard to housing defects. Notices with regard to other premises, drainage, and other defects are included under Sanitary Inspections.

6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

The Local Authority have taken 6 samples of Milk on their own account, samples of the Milk delivered to the Schools, under the Milk in Schools Scheme, have been taken on behalf of the Lancashire County Council.

The systematic inspection of the 341 dairy farms in the area has not been continued owing to war conditions.

The examination of Milk for the presence of Tubercl Bacilli cannot be considered satisfactory.

The cost of the analysis of one sample is £1/1/0, thus if two samples only were taken from each farm in one year the cost to this Council, apart from salaries of staff engaged upon this work, would be in excess of a $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. Rate, (i.e., £714).

Unless T.B. in cattle can be stamped out it would appear that the only remedy for this state of affairs would be :

- (1) State assistance to the Rural District (as producers) in the cost of taking samples of milk used by the population.
- (2) Heat Treatment of all milk the cost of which should be borne by the State.

The Law giving the Local Authorities power to prevent the registration of unsuitable premises for Wholesale Milk Products is totally inadequate.

Until some stronger powers are given to the Authorities to prevent unsuitable premises and methods from being used for the production of this vital food, it is difficult to see how milk of a satisfactory standard of cleanliness can be maintained.

Heat treatment should of course be regarded as an extra safeguard against transmission of disease. It is essential to have a clean milk before pasturisation. It is greatly to be regretted that there is as yet no legal standard of cleanliness for raw ungraded milk.

There are in the area 341 cowkeepers and 3 dairymen who are not cowkeepers.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Since the outbreak of war all slaughtering has been carried out at Lancaster City Clauhterhouse.

No inspection of slaughterhouses has been made during the year.

(c) ADULTERATION, Etc.

This part of food inspection is dealt with by the Lancashire County Council.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This is also undertaken by the Lancashire County Council.

(e) NUTRITION:

Various lectures have been given to the Women's Institutes by the Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, and by the Health Propaganda Lecturer of the Lancashire County Council.

(f) BAKEHOUSES.

There are 8 Bakehouses in the area and their condition is satisfactory. No inspection has been made during the year.

(g) SHELL-FISH (Molluscan).

The Cockle Beds in the area are liable to pollution and were closed in November, 1925.

7. Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious Diseases.

During the year 21 Scarlet Fever and 4 Diphtheria cases were notified. These figures show that the incidence of these diseases was normal. The Diphtheria cases were mild. 89 pre school children and 112 school children were immunised free during the year by rota of general practitioners employed by the Authority.

A supply of Anti-Toxin for use in cases of Diphtheria is kept at a Local Chemist's shop for the benefit of medical practitioners in the area.

Disinfection is carried out following notifiable infectious diseases and tuberculosis, but not measles, and during the year 33 houses were disinfected by Formalin spraying and Fumigation.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS).

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Disease	All Ages	Under 1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Over 65
Scarlet Fever	21	—	—	2	—	9	7	1	1	—	1	—	—
Diphtheria	4	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Acute Polionyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Acute Primary & Acute Influenza).	7	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	2	1	—	—
Puerperal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	66	2	3	2	5	9	34	3	5	—	2	1	—
Erysipelas	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—
Whooping Cough	19	1	1	1	4	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	127	3	5	3	12	9	59	12	6	5	7	6	—

9 cases of Scarlet Fever, 4 of Diphtheria, 1 of Puerperal Pyrexia,
1 Acute Polionyelitis, 3 Erysipelas and 2 of Cerebro Spinal Fever
were removed to Hospital.

There were six deaths during the year from Pneumonia, one from
measles and one from Diphtheria.

**Number of Cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria notified during
the previous years.**

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria
1942	21	4
1941	8	6
1940	3	7
1939	20	7
1938	23	6
1937	53	20
1936	30	36
1935	4	—
1934	5	16
1933	6	6
1932	5	1
1931	8	5
1930	31	8
1929	16	3
1928	9	3
1927	11	1
1926	18	2

CANCER.

No special action has been taken to impart information to the public relating to Cancer and facilities available for treatment, but cases are sent from the district to hospitals at Manchester and Liverpool.

The following table gives details of the deaths from Cancer compared with the total deaths for a period of years :—

Year	Total Deaths	Cancer Deaths
1934	141	17
1935	136	19
1936	138	12
1937	147	14
1938	130	15
1939	121	5
1940	154	19
1941	148	25
1942	153	27

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during the year.

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory.		Other forms		Respiratory.		Other forms	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	2	1	1	1	1	—	1
Totals	4		2		2		1	

Maternity and Child Welfare Work.

This work is carried out by the Lancashire County Council, and the Assistant County Medical Officer of Health hold Clinics and Welfare Centres in various parts of the District.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors
or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Number of Inspectors (Factories) 2

Number of Written Notices 1

Prosecutions Nil



